

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 15 and 16.

Please rewrite claims 10-14 and 17-20 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c)(1)(ii), amended claims 10-14 and 17-20 are set forth in a Marked Up Version in the pages attached to this amendment.

10. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly for operating a vehicle climate control unit, said actuation lever comprising:

a knob that includes a pocket having at least one inner peripheral surface;

a lever having a first end for engaging and supporting said knob, said first end having a resiliently deflectable retaining member that engages at least one inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket to retain said knob on said lever, wherein said retaining member is harder than said knob, and wherein said retaining member includes a sharply pointed tip which is embedded into an inner peripheral surface of said knob pocket upon installation of said knob.

11. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said retaining member is integrally formed with said lever.

12. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said retaining member exhibits a substantially arched profile defining a first half that extends upward from said lever and a second half comprising a deflectable tine that extends downwardly from said first end.

13. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said tine deflects inwardly towards said longitudinal axis upon installation of said knob.

14. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein a spring force generated by said deflected tine causes said retaining member to exert oppositely directed forces against at least one inner peripheral surface.

17. (First Amended) An actuation lever assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein said knob comprises a polymeric material and said lever comprises a metal.